What is claimed is:

1.   A computer-implemented interface for reclaiming memory in a multi-threaded virtual machine environment, the multi-threaded virtual machine environment

5   including a virtual machine, the computer-implemented interface comprising:

a first module, the first module being associated with the virtual machine, the first module including a first routine for initiating a garbage collection process within the virtual machine environment, a second routine for scanning roots associated with the virtual machine environment, a third routine for following roots through objects

10   associated with the virtual machine environment; and

a second module, the second module being separate from the first module, the second module being arranged to interface with the first module, the second module including a fourth routine for initializing a heap in the virtual machine environment, a fifth routine for allocating an object in the virtual machine environment, and a sixth

15   routine for performing the garbage collection process.

2.   A computer-implemented interface according to claim 1 wherein the second module further includes at least a seventh routine for implementing barriers for the garbage collection process.

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3.   A computer-implemented interface according to claim 2 wherein the barriers include a read barrier and a write barrier.

4.   A computer-implemented interface according to claim 1 wherein the first

25   module includes a seventh routine for handling particular objects associated with the virtual machine environment.